

WARMINSTER

Rural District Council.

---

Medical Officer's

REPORT

for 1900.

## **WATER SUPPLY.**

I have had no complaints of insufficiency of water during the past year. Two houses have been reported as unfit for habitation, and have been repaired. The well at a dairy farm was found to be much polluted, and was closed, and a proper water supply laid on from the parish of Horningsham.

## **SEWAGE DISPOSAL.**

The sewage disposal in the district is that common in most rural districts. The bakehouses and slaughterhouses have been regularly inspected, and the provisions of the Cowsheds and Dairies Order were properly complied with. One case of anthrax in a dairy was reported to me.

The statistical tables required by the Local Government Board will be found attached to this report.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Yours Faithfully,

**FREDERICK I. FLOWER,**

Medical Officer of Health to the Warminster Rural District Council.

Codford was also closed for a short time which I think was unnecessary as only one house was infected. It is the prevalent idea with many people that directly a case of infectious disease occurs, the proper thing is to close the schools, and having done so, write to the Medical Officer of Health informing him of the fact and requesting his sanction of same. This is not only very irregular but interferes greatly with the work of the Medical Officer of Health, as often the source of an outbreak is discovered by early inspection of the village school, and by such inspection, and examination of the registers, the Medical Officer of Health is able to judge whether or no closure of the school is advisable.

### ***INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.***

The district has been regularly inspected, and the result of these inspections are reported to the Council at their monthly meetings. The result of my inspection of the different villages are summarised as follows :—

IMBER.—The cottage accommodation is ample and of fair quality for an agricultural village, but at the entrance to the village there are a few antiquated and unsatisfactory cottages.

CHITTERNE.—A large number of cottages in this village are badly constructed and of very inferior quality, particularly those on the north side of Bidden Lane and at Townsend, but in the latter locality some of the worst cottages are uninhabited.

STOCKTON.—The general condition of the cottages and their surroundings is satisfactory.

CODFORD.—The surface drainage in some parts of the village is unsatisfactory, but the village generally is clean and healthy.

SHERRINGTON, BOYTON, and CORTON.—These villages lie very low, and in winter are damp and unhealthy; some of the cottages are very ancient, low roofed, and cramped, but some of the worst of these in the first named parish have been improved.

SUTTON VENY.—There are a large number of uninhabited houses in this village consequent on the decrease in the number of inhabitants.

UPTON LOVELL.—The cottages are mostly of modern construction, but the closing of the factory there has caused a number to be vacated.

KNOOK.—This is a small village, and a few of the cottages near the river are old and out of repair.

HEYTESBURY.—This village has an excellent water supply which now extends its mains to Norton Bavant. The cottage accommodation is excellent with few exceptions.

The DEVERILLS and CROCKERTON.—The water supply in some parts is unsatisfactory. Shallow wells abound, which, in wet or rough weather, become very foul and turbid, and unfit for use. A water supply for these villages is badly needed.

CORSLEY.—A great many cottages are vacant in this village, and of late years numbers have been pulled down, a few admirable cottages have been built, and others that were out of repair have been put in order.

HORNINGSHAM.—This and the preceding village are the two most difficult to inspect in the whole district, as the cottages are very widely scattered. This village has an ample water supply, and the cottages are clean and nicely kept.



# WARMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

---

## Medical Officer's Report for 1900.

WARMINSTER, JANUARY, 1900.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

Another period has arrived for me to present to you my Annual Report as to the health and Sanitary condition of the district.

The statistics required this year by the Local Government Board are far in excess of any previous year, and entail a vast amount of extra work.

To collect the Death Rate, Birth Rate, and other figures connected with same, for the last ten years is no easy matter, and as we had no intimation that such would be required, many of the earlier reports have been destroyed, and you had to seek from various sources the information required with the result that I have only been able to obtain the figures for the past eight years.

### **DEATH RATE.**

During the past year the number of deaths registered in the district was 110, to which must be added the names of five persons dying in the Cottage Hospital and Workhouse belonging to the district, and the deduction of two deaths of persons non-resident in the district, which gives a total of 113 as the actual number; equal to a death rate, on an estimated population of 7430, of 15·07 per 1000. I am afraid this estimated population is much above the actual number, and I do not think I shall be wide of the mark, from observation I have made during my inspection of the various villages during the past year, in estimating the decrease at the coming census at not less than 5 per cent.

The ages of death ranged from two hours to 90 years, and the deaths of persons over 80 years of age numbered nine. The deaths of children under one year of age numbered 15. Three deaths occurred from Measles, and five from Phthisis.

### **BIRTH RATE.**

The births numbered 123, equal to a birth rate of 16·5 per 1000.

### **INFECTIOUS DISEASES.**

I will now refer to the presence of Infectious Diseases during the year. The only notifiable disease prevalent was Scarlet Fever, but Measles and Mumps were epidemic in many of the villages.

#### **SCARLET FEVER.**

Twenty-eight cases of this disease were reported to me, viz.: Eight at Chitterne, nine at Heytesbury, three at Codford, two at Bishopstrow and Corton, and one at Norton Bavant, Knook, Corsley, and Sutton Veny. The school at Heytesbury was closed with marked advantage in checking the outbreak. The school at